

Week Ending Friday, January 19, 1996

**Remarks in a Teleconference With
Ohio Democratic Caucuses**

January 11, 1996

I want to say hello to all of you in Ohio, and especially—[applause]—can you hear me? [Applause] That's great.

I want to thank your party chair, David Leland, and Senator John Glenn and your former party chair, Jim Ruvolo, for all of your hard work in organizing tonight's caucuses. And I want to thank all of you for signing on to help us tonight.

We've got people there, I know, from all across Ohio: in Cleveland and Greenville; in Columbus and New Philadelphia; Cincinnati and Waverly; in Dayton, where the Bosnian peace agreement was made; in Marion; Toledo and Milan; in Youngstown and Springfield; in Canton and Mentor; and Akron and Lorain. To all of you, thank you very much.

You all know that Ohio is very special to me. The Ohio primaries put me over the top on the road to the Democratic nomination. And Ohio's delegates put me over the top for the nomination at the convention in New York City in 1992. And of course, on November 4th, 1992, it was the electoral votes of the State of Ohio that put me over the top in the electoral college. So I know how much I owe to the State of Ohio and to all of you in particular. And I thank you for everything you have done and for your commitment to help us in the months ahead.

Every American knows that we are living in a time of great change. We're moving toward a new century. We're moving from the industrial to the information and technology age. We're moving from the cold war to the global village. This is a time of immense possibility and great challenge for our country.

I think all of you know that when I ran for President it was to address these challenges and to take advantage of these possibilities; to restore the American dream, to make the American people a stronger com-

munity, and to preserve our leadership as a great force for peace and freedom around the world. And we've done that with a simple strategy: grow the economy; give the American people a smaller, better Government; and restore mainstream values in our national life.

If you look at the Ohio economy, if you look at the national economy, we've cut the deficit in half. We've expanded trade to record levels. We've invested in the education of the American people and their technological future. And look what we've got: almost 8 million jobs, a 15-year high in home ownership, a 27-year low in the combined rates of unemployment and inflation. Unemployment is down in Ohio from 7 percent to under 5 percent. In Ohio, you've got almost 300,000 new private sector jobs. And the debt has been cut over \$15,000 for every family of four in Ohio.

We changed the way this Government works. Do you know there are more than 200,000 fewer people working for the Federal Government than there were when I became President, thanks to the work the Democrats did to make Government more effective and fairer?

And most important of all, we're being more true to our values. We passed a tough crime bill, and that helped people all across America to bring the crime rate down. We've given States all over America the freedom to move people from welfare to work. And the welfare rolls are down. The food stamp rolls are down. The poverty rolls are down. The teen pregnancy rolls are down. These are things the American people did, but our policies, the crime bill, the welfare reform, they have helped.

You know we have challenges ahead, but the only way we can meet them is to keep moving in the direction that we're going. And I know that everyone in Ohio must be so proud that Ohio was the place with the eyes of the world watching where the peace in

Bosnia was made, to go with the progress that our country has made in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland, and reducing the nuclear threat. That's a record we can all be proud of, a record we can all be proud to run on and run with, and embrace and bring people to the Democratic Party with.

Now, if you look at this budget fight we're having in Congress today, it's another example of what I've been working for since 1993 when I became your President. I want to balance the budget. If it weren't for the debt run up in the 12 years before I became President, the interest payments on that, we'd have a balanced budget today. I have worked hard, in good faith to reach an agreement with the Congress. But you know, this is not about numbers. We have already identified more than enough cuts to balance the budget and give a modest tax cut. This is about whether we're going to protect Medicare, Medicaid, our investments in education, our environment, whether we're going to protect working families from having their taxes increased while others get a tax cut. That's what I'm fighting for, for an America in the future that you can be proud of, that will be worthy of the support that I received from the people of Ohio.

I want every child in the State of Ohio and in the United States to be able to look forward to a brighter future. That's what I'm working for. I think you can go out in the State and say, look at where we were in 1992; look at where we are today; look at where we have to go.

If you'll do that, we'll work together, we'll win a victory, but more importantly, the people of our country will win a victory.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:52 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Fundraising Luncheon in Nashville, Tennessee

January 12, 1996

Thank you so much, Mr. Vice President, Governor McWherter, Senator and Mrs. Gore. Senator and Mrs. Sasser—they'll do a

great job for our country in China. Senator and Mrs. Mathews and to Congressman Gordon, Congressman Clement, and Congressman Tanner, and former Congressman Jim Cooper is here with us. I'm glad to see all of you here. To the mayors who are here, my good friend Wayne Glen and to other people who are here from all over Tennessee and from all walks of life. And Marilyn Lloyd, I think, is here somewhere. Where is she? Former Congresswoman.

And let me say to all of you that I sure like that speech Al Gore gave. I want all of you from Tennessee to know that when the record of this administration has been written, the consequences of our actions may be only apparent to the American people in their positive aspects years from now. But one thing is already clear. In the entire history of our Republic, the most effective, the most important Vice President in American history is Al Gore.

He has overseen our efforts to reform our environmental laws so that we could be better at growing the economy and preserving the environment at the same time. He is developing a plan that will have our country work in partnership with the private sector to hook up every student in America to the Internet with good software, good computers, good training, just in the next few years.

He has managed a permanent relationship with the Prime Minister of Russia which has reinforced the positive direction in which we are going and which has helped us to lift the cloud of nuclear threat from the American people since we've been here. For the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, there is not a single, solitary nuclear missile pointed at an American child, and I am proud of that.

While our friends on the other side talked about not liking big Government, wanting to give more power to States and localities in the private sector, in a very quiet and straightforward and effective way the Vice President has helped us to reduce the size of the Federal Government by over 200,000.

And when you hear your Republican friends back in your neighborhood saying that the Democrats are the party of big Government, ask them, "Well, if that's so, why is the Government now the smallest it's been